

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Comments on the Arrest of Beriya	DATE DISTR.	14 July 1953	
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BY CARLIF

1. For the past two or three months, Beriya has been the main person driving toward the top in the Soviet Union and he may be credited with the recent "soft course" of the Kremlin in the Satellites. Therefore, it can be assumed that Beriya not only overreached himself but will be held actually responsible as well as being charged propagandistically with the failure of the "soft course", the outbreak of widespread satellite disorders, and the ensuing need for the use of armed forces against the workers.
2. A long and far-reaching purge is probably in the offing, with Beriya's assistant Smirnov doubtlessly sharing Beriya's guilt.¹
3. If Western powers favoring four-power talks while the Soviets are confused felt that the opportunity for quick exploitation had passed when no Western invitation was issued during the Berlin uprisings, the Beriya arrest now proves that the opportune moment for exploitation is still present and the confused state of Soviet affairs is a continuing rather than a passing factor.

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